

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARAE-00 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01

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P 161917Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5106

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2279

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, XM, AR, BL, BR, CI, PN, PA, UY, VE

SUBJECT: SELA

REF: STATE 126782

1. FONMIN SAPENA PASTOR INFORMED ME TODAY THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM PANAMANIAN FONMIN TACK DATED JUNE 9 INVITING HIM TO ATTEND A MEETING IN PANAMA ON JULY 28. SAPENA THEN SHOWED ME A COPY OF HIS REPLY TO TACK WHICH STATED THAT BEFORE THE GOP COULD DECIDE WHETHER TO ATTEND OR NOT, IT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BASIC PREMISE AND THE AGENDA (QTE ANTEPROYECTO DE BASE UNQTE) OF THE PROPOSED MEETING.

2. SAPENA PASTOR SAID THAT THIS REPLY HAD BEEN COORDINATED WITH OTHER QTE CONO SUR UNQTE COUNTRIES AND THAT BRAZIL HAD ALREADY ANSWERED
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TACK ALONG THE SAME LINES. ARGENTINA, URUGUAY,

BOLIVIA AND POSSIBLY CHILE WILL ALSO FOLLOW SUIT.

3. COMMENT: FROM THE MANNER IN WHICH SAPENA SPOKE, I RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE QUESTION OF SELA WAS PROBABLY DISCUSSED AT THE RECENT RIVER PLATE BASIN MEETING AT COCHABAMBA BECAUSE HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE REPLIES FROM THE FIVE COUNTRIES ATTENDING THAT MEETING HAD BEEN WELL COORDINATED. SAPENA WAS SPECIFIC IN NAMING VENEZUELA RATHER THAN MEXICO AS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND SELA AND HE SAID THAT THE 300 MILLION INHABITANTS OF THE QTE CONO SUR UNQTE WERE SIMPLY NOT PREPARED TO SEE VENEZUELA AS THE SELF-APPOINTED LEADER OF SOUTH AMERICA.
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